



KENTUCKY EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

KY EXCEL is a voluntary program open to any individual, organization, community or business that wishes to improve and protect Kentucky's environment in ways that extend beyond Kentucky's environmental requirements.

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection is pleased to introduce you to its voluntary environmental leadership program, KY EXCEL. This program offers unique opportunities for public, corporate, and private sectors to improve Kentucky's diverse and wonderful environment. We invite your participation! KY EXCEL:

- Provides multiple membership levels that are open to any individual, organization, community or business that wishes to voluntarily contribute to Kentucky's environmental excellence;
- Publicly recognizes environmental stewardship and superior environmental performance;
- Offers incentives to encourage participation and growth within the program; and
- Aligns with other leadership programs, including U.S. EPA's National Environmental Performance Track program.

Membership Levels – Four membership levels are available to program participants. The Advocate membership was established for entities that are not permitted or regulated by the Department for Environmental Protection. Facilities that are permitted or regulated by the department may choose from the Partner, Leader or Master membership level.

Voluntary Environmental Projects – Completion of approved voluntary projects is a key component of KY EXCEL membership. The variety of projects that can be performed is extensive and members are encouraged to look for projects within their organization as well as their communities. Acceptable voluntary projects can include any activity that will benefit Kentucky's environment provided that the activity is not a legal requirement for the applicant.

Environmental Planning and Assessments – All Partner, Leader, and Master members must document and assess their environmental performance and procedures. This component is important for KY EXCEL members because it establishes a sustainable process that will allow the member to continue to improve its environmental performance.

Annual Project Reports – All KY EXCEL members will complete a project report form that summarizes the year's project achievements. Information from the annual reports will be used to recognize the member's accomplishments and document environmental benefits.

Incentives – KY EXCEL offers incentives to facilitate program participation, recognize member achievements, and encourage continual improvement. Program incentives include public recognition, networking opportunities, and enhanced agency services. Greater incentives are provided to membership levels with greater commitments.

KY EXCEL Membership Levels

Advocate

- Commit to one voluntary project each year
- Complete an annual project report form

Partner

- Commit to one voluntary project each year
- Develop an environmental management plan
- Conduct a self-assessment
- Complete an annual project report form for each project

Leader

- Commit to three voluntary projects each year
- Implement an environmental management plan
- Conduct a self-assessment
- Complete an annual project report form for each project

Master

- Commit to five voluntary projects each year; at least one must be an outreach or educational activity
- Demonstrate past environmental achievement
- Implement an environmental management plan
- Conduct a third-party assessment
- Agree to mentor another member, if requested
- Complete an annual project report form for each project

Are you interested in joining KY EXCEL or have additional questions?

Call the Division of Compliance Assistance at 1-800-926-8111
or visit www.KYEXCEL.ky.gov for more information.

